



Queen Elizabeth II

National Trust

newsletter

No. 25 MARCH 1992

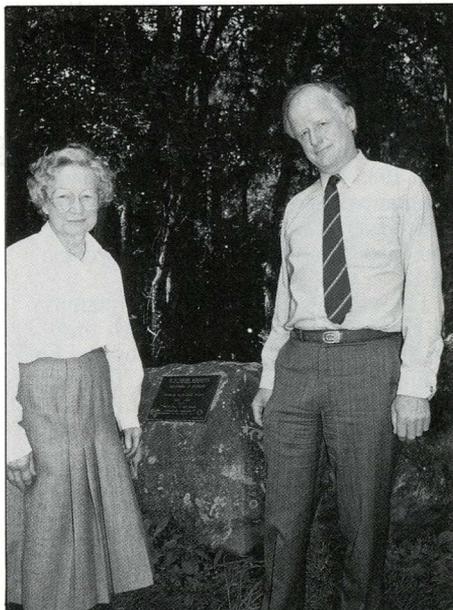
Ceremony at Mount Pirongia

Mount Pirongia was sharply outlined across the Waikato skyline on the morning of October 31st, 1991 and this was a cause for rejoicing because on that day a ceremony at the Firth forest covenant had been planned.

The ceremony was organised to unveil a plaque in memory of the late E B (Ted) Firth. This plaque had been mounted on a large rock placed in a 5.2 hectare bush area which the Firth family had given to the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society in 1977.

Ted Firth was a well known figure in the north of the North Island for much of his life. Not only was he the founding member of Firth Concrete, which he with his brother Tony built into a sizeable empire, but he was also a very keen flier of Tiger Moth aircraft. Later he became a flying instructor in the war years during which he became a Squadron Leader. In the twenties he touched the limelight when he "buzzed" the sunbathers on Milford Beach in Auckland making newspaper headlines which lasted for several days.

In the mid-1950s Ted Firth purchased bush and farmland around Mount Pirongia. The main reason for his purchase was to stop the then current logging which he knew would eventually



Gwen Firth and Sir Peter Elworthy next to the plaque.

affect the Mount Pirongia forest. His intention was to have as much of this bush as possible added back to the Mount Pirongia Forest Park.

Ted Firth purchased a total of 140 hectares which caused immediate halting

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of the logging. The bush was eventually added back into the park. In this respect he was a man before his time because during the fifties and sixties the Government was actively pursuing policies of agricultural development. In those days there was no real conservation voice in New Zealand.

Because there was no organisation like the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust to covenant the other remnants of Firth bush in the farmland areas, Ted Firth donated his prime area of roadside tawa and podocarp forest to the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society. It is in this bush that the plaque commemorating him has now been placed.

In 1985 Mrs Gwen Firth, Ted's widow, covenanted a further 16 hectares of bush which has effectively linked the Forest and Bird area with the Mount Pirongia Park.

The unveiling ceremony was planned by Forest and Bird together with the Trust to mark the work done by the Firth family, and also the E B Firth Trust (that has made generous donations to the National Trust).

About 125 people from both organisations and the Firth family assembled at the end of Waites Road, Te Pahu. Twenty five children from the Te Pahu School also attended; this school is part of the National Trust School Covenant Project with an interest in all the covenanted bush areas in the district.

The first speaker was Alan Livingston, Chairman of the Te Pahu Board of Trustees and a Trust covenantor. He welcomed the visitors to the district and expressed the district's gratitude to Ted Firth for his efforts in enlarging the size of Mount Pirongia Park.

The Mayor of Waipa District Council, Bruce Berquist, acknowledged the work done by the National Trust in the old Waipa County and mentioned the very good relations which the Council and the Trust have always enjoyed. Mr Berquist gave an assurance that the Council is committed to continuing support for protection of the natural landscape.

The Chairman of the Waikato Branch

of Forest and Bird, Dr Philip Hart, spoke about the history of the Firth bush, outlining when it was gifted and emphasising the importance of the subsequent Trust covenant which linked the Forest and Bird block with the mountain, so safeguarding that valuable corridor of bush. Looking around at that moment and seeing New Zealand pigeon, shining cuckoo, grey warbler, kingfisher and tui in the trees behind us, we appreciated that point. Dr Hart also said the relationship between the Society and the National Trust is becoming stronger.

National Trust Chairman, Sir Peter Elworthy followed, summarising the reasons for our gathering together on the mountain at that moment.

"Ted Firth was a man of great wisdom, foresight and courage who also made a huge contribution in general bequests to the National Trust and to other conservation areas around New Zealand", he said.

Sir Peter went on to explain how although we all came from different directions our goals and aspirations for forest protection were the same. He expressed the Trust's appreciation to the Firth family for their generosity and support of Trust and Forest and Bird activities.

Sir Peter and Gwen Firth then unveiled the plaque and planted two matai trees to commemorate the event. To finish the ceremonial events, a book, *Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide*, was presented to Mrs Firth.

A substantial afternoon tea which included a sausage sizzle and billy tea provided by Arthur and Pat Cowan with the assistance of Roy Dench, followed.

Later most of the guests walked up the nearby airstrip and wandered into the bush and into Pirongia Park. On this exceptional day the views over the whole of the Waikato from the top of the airstrip were magnificent.

The day concluded with Sir Peter being flown back from the nearby airstrip to Waikato Airport by Robert Folkerts, the lessee of the bush areas of the Firth property. In the process he gave Sir Peter

a flight around the mountain and over much of the Waikato including one of the prize covenants, Lake Maratoto, which lies near the airport.

This warm and friendly occasion, where Trust covenantors and Forest and Bird members mixed congenially, was the highlight of 1991 for the Trust in the Waikato. It showed that conservation of the land was not only rewarding but it could be an enjoyable business as well. It

highlighted how conservation was now appreciated by so many, including an up and coming generation of school children.

We are all grateful to the Firth family for their enthusiasm for the day, and for letting us enjoy the fruits of what they had achieved on Mount Pirongia.

*Stuart Chambers
Waikato - Regional Representative*

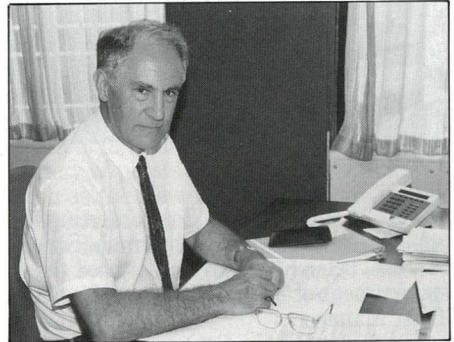
Euan McQueen Retires

Euan McQueen retired as General Manager of the National Trust in December 1991. He came to the Trust in July 1988 after a varied career including university teaching, and nine years as Assistant General Manager of the Railways Corporation.

During his time as General Manager, the Trust, as was the case with all publicly funded agencies, experienced financial constraints. At the same time the Trust had reached an age and stage where its management and accountability had to be reviewed; a computer based information system was introduced and other changes were made with the aim of developing the already well established cost-effectiveness of the Trust to match the limited funding available.

Euan took a particular interest in the two Trust garden properties, Tupare and Hollard Gardens. The Advisory Committee structure was reformed, and clear management guidelines set for the future. In 1990 he helped foster the establishment of the successful 'Friends of Hollard Gardens Trust' with the aim of involving local people in the Gardens and their development.

One of Euan's strong interests was to establish and maintain contact with a wide range of individuals and organisations "spreading the word" of the work of the National Trust. This included

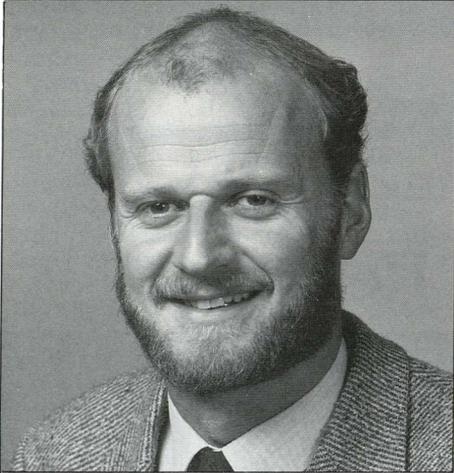


Euan McQueen.

contact with landholders, both those with open space covenants on their properties and prospective covenantors, as well as a range of organisations in Wellington and elsewhere that needed to be more aware of the work of the Trust. "I leave the Trust with some sadness", he said. "I doubt that I have ever worked with a group of people with such commitment to the cause as is the case with the Trust Directors and staff, especially the Regional Representatives and Garden staff who beaver away on their own and produce such great results."

Euan leaves the Trust with the best wishes of the Directors and Staff for a varied and rewarding retirement and thanks for his contribution to the work of the Trust.

New Trust Manager Announced



Tim Porteous.

At the February Board meeting the National Trust Chairman, Sir Peter Elworthy, announced the appointment of Tim Porteous as the new Trust Manager.

Tim has a B.A. in Geography, a Diploma in Horticulture and a post-graduate Diploma of Landscape Architecture and is currently chairperson of the Wellington branch of the N Z Institute of Landscape Architects.

Forest Heritage Fund

In excess of 250 individual applications for financial assistance towards the National Trust's costs of establishing open space covenants had been submitted to the Forest Heritage Fund by the end of October 1991.

The Forest Heritage Fund was created by the Government during 1990 as a contestable source of finance for the protection of indigenous forest.

Preparation of applications to the Fund is a time-consuming activity for Trust

Tim joined the Trust in 1987 as Landscape Architect after 3 years with the Department of Lands and Survey and later became Project Manager with responsibility for implementing the Trust's computer-based information system.

He has been Acting General Manager since Euan McQueen's departure.

Announcing the appointment, Sir Peter Elworthy said:

"The Board met on Thursday 13 February and accepted a recommendation from their selection committee not to appoint a manager from outside the National Trust.

The Board concluded, after interviewing applicants, that the management of the Trust should be handled by a Trust Manager and that fund raising should be concentrated on as a separate activity.

The Board decisions reflect confidence by the Board in the ability of Tim Porteous as Trust Manager, and of the current staff, Wellington based and regional, to handle the Trust's activities.

The decisions also reflect the Board's view that, alongside the Trust's core activities, we must now focus professionally and vigorously, on a stronger funding base for the Trust".

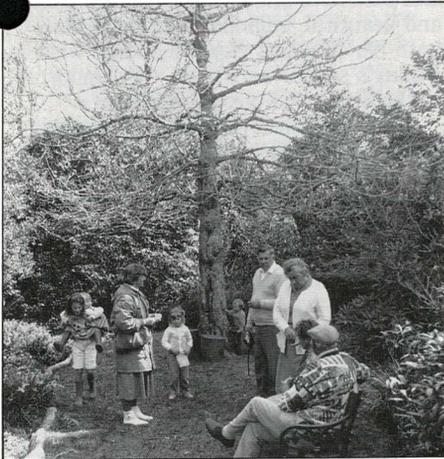
staff, but the effort put in has been rewarded with a 94% success rate in approvals received.

By September 1991 the Trust had approved commitments of some \$1,069,000 from the Fund to enable covenants to be finalised over about 6034 hectares of indigenous forest.

The Trust continues to be grateful for the financial assistance forthcoming from the Forest Heritage Fund.

Friends of Hollard Gardens Trust

On September 29, 1991 the 'Friends of Hollard Gardens Trust' was launched at an open day at the gardens. The Trust was established to give Taranaki residents an opportunity to become more acquainted with the 3.8 ha property.



Visitors at the open day.

Bernard Hollard started the gardens in 1927 when he fenced off an area of bush on his Kaponga dairy farm. He had become interested in gardening at an early age. The gardens were well established by the time he and his wife Rose married. The Hollards expanded the gardens to include the adjoining swamp and in 1948 they completed the driveway and added five hectares of new garden.



Bernard Hollard.

They gifted the gardens to the National Trust in 1982 to ensure their permanent protection. Hollard gardens contain a large variety of plants including rare species such as the New Zealand passion vine and the pink flowering strawberry tree. Rhododendrons are a special feature. The many varieties include 'Kaponga' raised by Mr Hollard. There is also the Bernard Hollard magnolia.

Mr Hollard, a fellow of both the British Royal Horticultural Society and the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture, continued to work in the gardens until about two years ago.

The Hollards are patrons of the 'Friends of Hollard Gardens Trust' whose members already number over a hundred. Fundraising events, producing a newsletter and staffing the gate during peak visitor periods are some of the activities run by the 'Friends'.

Rhododendron Festival at Hollard Gardens

Hollard Gardens' curator, Greg Rine, reports that the festival went very well, especially with the support of the 'Friends of Hollard Gardens'. They staffed the gate

and through their assistance visitors were able to purchase plants, gift cards, crafts and refreshments to complement their visit.

Board Changes

Trust Farewells Directors

Four directors were farewelled during the second half of 1991, due to a combination of terms being completed and the new legislation which reduced the number of board members.

Mr Rei Bailey of Wanganui was appointed to the Trust in 1982 as a representative of the Maori people of New Zealand. He was a founding member of the Komiti Whenua Toitu which was established in August 1983 to focus on Trust matters relating to the protection of Maori owned land. He became chairman of the Komiti in 1988. During his time with the National Trust Rei promoted its work widely within the Maori Council.

Mrs Margaret Mortimer of Frankton joined the Trust board in 1984. She replaced the late Max Somerville as the then Counties Association representative. She has had a high profile in both the Farm Forestry Association and the conservation movement. As a director of the National Trust she has shown great enthusiasm and commitment to its work.

Mrs Jennifer Seddon of Tauranga was appointed to the board by the Minister of Conservation in 1988. She was a member of the Tauranga City Council for 12 years and has been involved in the local branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society. In 1990 Mrs Seddon and her husband covenanted five hectares of coastal forest in the Bay of Plenty.

Mr Richard Alspach of Dargaville was appointed to the Board by the Minister of Conservation in consultation with Federated Farmers, in 1990. He has a strong commitment to conservation, especially bush protection.

Trust Chairman, Sir Peter Elworthy, said "We thank these four directors for their contribution and commitment to the National Trust over a critical period of our work.

Rei Bailey, alongside his fulfilling a Director's role for 11 years in the broadest sense, was pivotal to the growth in awareness by Maoridom of the relevance to conservation of Maori land.

Bunny Mortimer, with her deep love and extensive knowledge of things natural and beautiful, balanced board decisions with her practical experience and wisdom. Bunny's seven years were very important to the Trust and our development.

Jenny Seddon brought her committed conservation ethos to the Trust and with her wide practical knowledge of local government systems her four years on the board yielded positive insights and directions.

Richard Alspach's tenure, potentially so productive, was terminated by an accident of timing. The Trust hopes to welcome Richard back in the future."

The Trust is indebted to the retiring directors for their contributions and their dedication and wishes them well in the future.

New Directors

Two new directors appointed by the Minister of Conservation were welcomed at the November board meeting. They are Ms Maggie Bayfield from Taranaki and Mr Maui Pomare of Wellington.

Ms Bayfield is a plant ecologist and does a variety of consultancy work in this area. Maui Pomare JP, is a leader in the Wellington (Ngati Awa) Maori community and is also involved in teaching and agriculture. He has been a member of the National Trust's Komiti Whenua Toitu since 1987.

A more detailed profile of the new board members will be published in the next edition of the Newsletter.

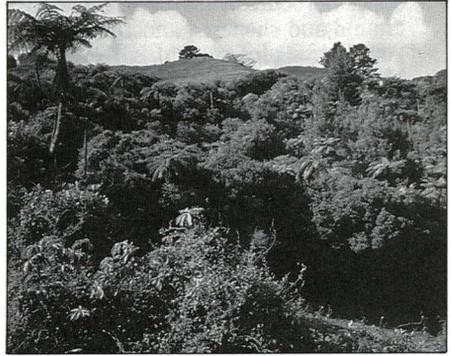
Hann Bush

Formalities to finalise the transfer of a 5.49 hectare bush property near Inglewood, Taranaki to the National Trust have now been completed.

The block has been gifted to the Trust by Mr George Hann and will be known as Hann Bush. Mr Hann, an amputee following a farm accident some years ago, has continued to run his stud Romney sheep and Aberdeen Angus cattle farm.

Mr Hann offered the bush area to the Trust, arranged for it to be fenced and also contributed towards survey costs. The Trust gratefully accepted the offer noting that Mr Hann had also agreed to covenant a further 6.1 hectare area on his property.

A predominantly kahihatea/pukatea forest remnant, other species present within Hann Bush include rewarewa, tawa, rimu, miro, mahoe, rata, matai,



Hann Bush viewed from Kupara Road.

lacebark and fivefinger.

The bush is located off Kupara Road at a point from which magnificent views of Mt Taranaki can be seen.

Open Space Covenants

By January 24 1992 there were 497 registered covenants, while a further 493 were approved and proceeding towards registration.

RECENTLY REGISTERED COVENANTS

NORTH AUCKLAND DISTRICT

1. **LAWRIE DA & LL.** Mill Road, Pukekohe.
The covenant protects a 4.24 ha bush clad main stream valley with two tributary valleys. It contains many totara, puriri, kohekohe, taraire, rimu, mapou, pigeonwood, wineberry, ponga and nikau. Mr Lawrie is a surveyor and carried out the covenant survey at his own cost.

2. **LYLIAN DJ & DUFFY AP.** Ocean Beach Whangarei Heads.
A valuable 12.74 ha coastal site has been protected by covenant. It contains sandhills covered in marram grass, pohutukawa and a rocky promontory. A small stream at one end provides a good breeding habitat for birds such as dotterels. The area is adjoined by a council reserve and a DOC reserve.

3. **NORTH SHORE CITY COUNCIL, (KAURI POINT CENTENNIAL PARK).** In Auckland city on the north shore of Waitemata Harbour, 3kms west of the harbour bridge.
A covenant protects the 20.45 ha forest covered headland facing the Waitemata Harbour. It contains regenerating forest with remnants of kauri forest once common in the region.

The area was once a major focus of Maori settlement in the 18th and 19th centuries because of its position on the upper harbour dividing a rich fishing ground and sheltered anchorage. Kauri Point, originally known as Te Mataroa-a-Mana, was settled by the Ngatitai tribe. It contained a pa site known as Onewa which is well preserved and is the only remaining example of a fortified headland pa in the Auckland area.

With significant assistance from the National Trust the North Shore City Council purchased the land from the then Auckland Harbour Board in 1987.

4. **LANDCORP FARMING LTD** (Landcorp Whangarei). Adjacent to Puketū forest, west of Kerikeri. The covenant protects 22.56 ha of bush containing kauri, rimu,

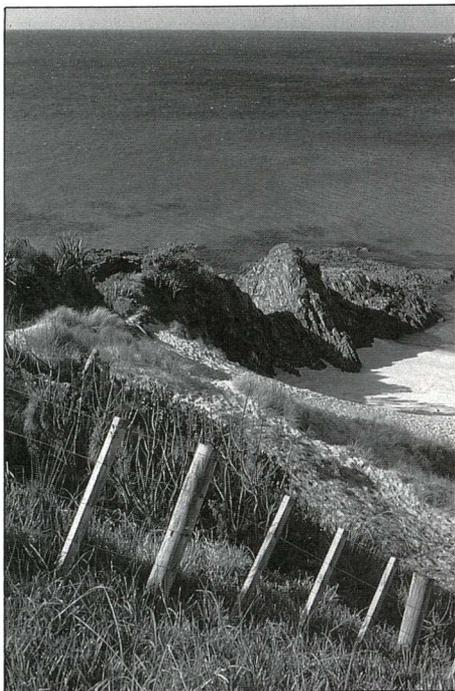
tanekaha, red and black matipo, ponga and manuka. Kiwis are present and its proximity to Puketū Forest enhances its value as a habitat area.

5. **MIDDLETON J & E.** East side State Highway 1, 2 km from Pokeno. The covenant protects 2.30 ha of bush which is highly visible from SH1 near the top of the Bombay Hills. The main species are kohekohe and puriri but there are also taraira, tawa, karaka, mapou and many young nikau.

SOUTH AUCKLAND DISTRICT

6. **NATIVE FOREST RESTORATION TRUST - RANGITOTO STATION.** Rangitoto Ranges, near Otorohanga. This 427.16 ha property known as Rangitoto Station has been covenanted. Forest was originally cleared from the area about 80 years ago to establish a farming operation. However, over the decades farming was never profitable on Rangitoto Station due to its altitude and climate. The Native Forest Restoration Trust purchased the Station in December 1989 because of its significance for conservation both in its own right and when taking into account the adjoining land. The Pureora State Forest is on one side, the Arthur Cowan Wildlife Reserve (a covenant) lies on the south and west side, and Maori owned incorporated land (bush) is on the northern boundary. Arthur Cowan (National Trust Director) and Roy Dench, who are both Restoration Trust members, initiated the project and are coordinating the revegetation programme, which is assisting the natural regeneration of the area. The Station is a valuable habitat for birds, especially tui and bellbird that feed on large areas of fuchsia.

7. **JONES DR R & R.** Next to the Waipa River, 2 km from Otorohanga on the west Otorohanga - Hamilton Road. The covenant protects a 5.89 ha steep



Rocky promontory on the Lylian and Duffy covenant.



Planting on Rangitoto Station.

regenerating hillside. The owner, in conjunction with the Otorohanga Zoological Society, is carrying out a revegetation project in the area. Local school pupils are also involved and visit the covenant regularly. Emerging trees include mahoe, rewarewa, rangiora, kawakawa, fivefinger and mamaku.

8. TOMPSETT G & N. Work Road, 7 kms from Katikati.

Three areas of bush totalling 10.83 ha adjacent to the Kaimai Forest Park, have been protected by covenant. The bush contains tawa, rewarewa and tall kanuka with some puriri and kohekohe in one of the block. The Whatakao River runs along one boundary of the property.

9. SCURR S & A . Pyes Pa Road, south of Tauranga.

The covenant protects several areas of tall trees totalling 4.81 ha. Tawa is dominant and other species include miro, matai, rimu, pukatea and mamaku. The trees also provide excellent erosion control.

10. PALMER P & V. Esdale Road, Pahoia, north of Tauranga.

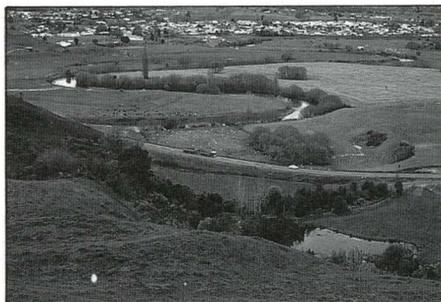
A whole title covenant protects an 8.23 ha bush and pasture property with extensive views over the Bay of Plenty and out to sea. The bush contains rimu, totara, miro, tawa, pukatea, rewarewa, tawa and kamahi with mamaku and ponga. It is part of

a larger bush area adjoining the Kaimai Forest Park. The owners are carrying out revegetation work in the covenant area.

11. DE JONG L & A. Tui Road, Te Aroha. 1.05 ha of forest remnant adjoining the Te Aroha Mountain Reserve has been covenanted. It contains tawa, kahikatea, kohekohe, mahoe and a number of very large, old puriri. The owners had previously covenanted another part of their property and were keen to protect this area due to its scenic roadside views and its value as a wildlife habitat.

12. BELL RA. Paparoa Road, Ohiwa Harbour, near Whakatane.

The covenant protects two areas of forest totalling 15.11 ha. One area is coastal with many pohutakawa. The other is a deep gully containing puriri, kohekohe, rewarewa, fivefinger and cordyline, with a small creek with a waterfall running through it. The property is now owned by Mr Bell's son and daughter.



Jones covenant.

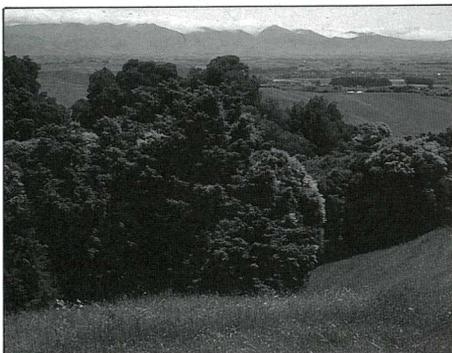
13. REWI E. Southern verge of Minginui township, east of Taupo.

A 4.52 ha wetland has been protected on a property bounded by the Minginui forest. The covenant area provides a habitat to a variety of bird species including pied stilt, paradise duck, grey duck, mallard, white-faced heron and spur winged plover.

14. OTEORA TRUST, (Otumoetai College). Odey Road, Whakamarama. The college has covenanted a 4.80 ha forest remnant containing their school camp area. Tawa is the dominant species but there is good regeneration of rimu, totara, pigeonwood and kamahi.

15. HOLLINGER M & R. Top end of Shaw Road, 14 km south of Te Puke. A 19.18 ha forest remnant along the Waiari River embankment has been protected by covenant. It comprises tall tawa, mangeao, pukatea, podocarps, pigeonwood and mamaku. The river system starts at Mt Otanewainuku and is well known for its birdlife, supporting kiwi, kokako, tui, bellbird, whitehead, tomtit and robin. Much of this river system is protected with the neighbouring Ashe and Mark covenants and the Pendergrast's covenant further up stream.

16. FAWCETT B & B. Campbell Road, Walton, north of Matamata. A 1.60 ha area of flood plain along the Waitoa River has been covenanted. It contains scattered, tall kahikatea as well as a dome shaped area covered in totara, kanuka and kahikatea. The owners protected the area both to retain landscape views and to protect the riverbanks.



Part of De Jong covenant.



Bell covenant area across Ohiwa Harbour.

17. NATIVE FOREST RESTORATION TRUST - STEUART RUSSELL RESERVE. Manganui Road, north of Awakino.

A covenant protects 644.94 ha of high quality, unlogged native forest. It contains a mixture of podocarps, tawa and pukatea on the gully faces with tanekaha and beech on the other ridges.

The species of beech, *Nothofagus truncata*, is regarded as a southern example of this more northern type. Many birds inhabit the Reserve with kiwi and whitehead in large numbers. The Native Forest Restoration Trust covenanted the area to protect the wildlife habitat, landscape values and a rich diversity of vegetation. They have also dedicated the reserve to the memory of conservationist, Steuart Russell, who is a National Trust benefactor.

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT

18. MEIER CJ & VM. Cheal Road, Ngaere, south-east of Stratford. Although relatively small, this 1.00 ha bush covenant is easily seen from Cheal Road and is found in an area where there are few forest remnants. The main species is tawa but there is also rewarewa, pukatea, kahikatea, pigeonwood, fuchsia, lacebark, swamp maire and mahoe. There are also some large tawa and pukatea.

WELLINGTON DISTRICT

19. JR ROBERTS TRUST. Timahanga Station, 80 km east of Taihape.

Two very large blocks of forest totalling 4606.00 ha are protected by covenant. One area, to the north of the Napier - Taihape Road is dominated by black, red and mountain beech with pockets of kahikatea, rimu, matai, miro, maire and some totara. It is a prominent landscape feature seen from the road.

The other area is south of the Napier - Taihape Road and contains large rimu, matai, kahikatea, maire and miro on the lower lying areas with patches of black, red and mountain beech. There are also many lemonwood, cordyline, horopito, wineberry and rangiora.

20. FREEMAN DJ. Motukai Road, Ngaumu, 25 kms from Masterton. Two blocks of bush totalling 6.10 ha have been covenanted. They contain a variety of species including rewarewa,

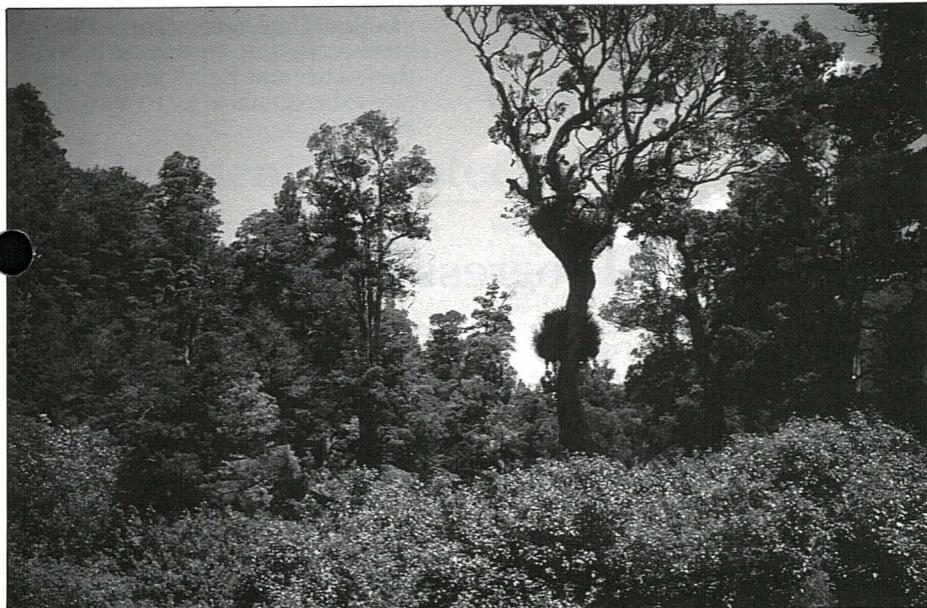
whiteywood, hinau, pigeonwood, putaputaweta, karaka, totara, cordyline and kanuka. The covenant can be seen from Motukai Road in an area where little native bush remains.

MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT

21. LEE D. Blackwood Bay, Queen Charlotte Sound, north-east of Picton. 42.25 ha of scrubland regenerating into native forest have been protected. The steep open faces of the covenant area are dominated by tall kanuka and the gullies by tree fern and mixed broadleaf. Of particular interest are the emergent rewarewa which occur at only six sites in the Marlborough Sounds. The covenant adjoins the Kumetoto Scenic Reserve and is near the Blackwood Bay Scenic Reserve. It is visible from the sea in an area of high recreational use.

CANTERBURY DISTRICT

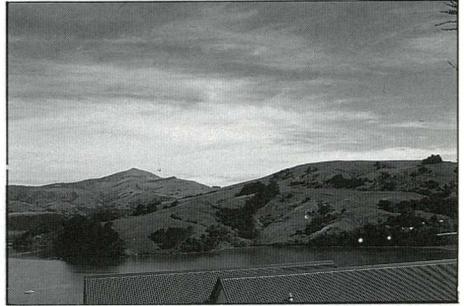
22. TREBOR FARM LTD, (Masefield RT and PM). South facing hill slopes,



JR Roberts Trust covenant.

adjoining Children's Bay, 2 km from Akaroa.

The covenant protects 33.38 ha of rolling to steep land and bush remnants. The main species are kanuka, narrow leaved lacebark, kowhai, mahoe, five-finger and totara with a number of large kahikatea. The covenant area is highly visible from the main part of Akaroa town and forms part of the natural outlook to the north, from Akaroa across the harbour.



Trebor Farms Ltd covenant at Childrens Bay.



Meier covenant.

SOUTHLAND DISTRICT

23. SOUTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL.

Lower Mataura River - tidal zone, 35 kms east of Invercargill.

Two adjoining forest remnants totalling 32.20 ha have been covenanted. Silver beech, kahikatea and pokaka are dominant with broadleaf, neopanax and totara. The extreme southern distribution of silver beech makes for an unusual combination of forest tree species. There are a good number of bush birds present with pukeko on the margins. These areas along with a number of others covenanted by the then Catchment Board are part of a planned programme for river control purposes.

Styles Creek Progress Report

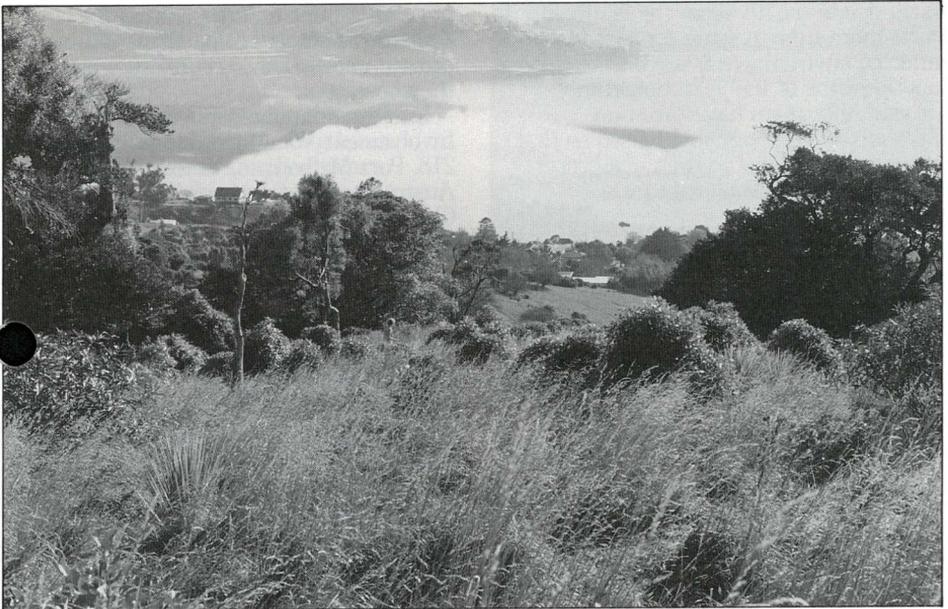
In February 1988 the Trust's first covenant on the Otago Peninsula, Styles Creek Bush, was officially opened by our chairman, Sir Peter Ewenby.

It is now four years since David Jensen initiated a covenant and fenced off the bush. Save The Otago Peninsula (Inc) (STOP) have been carrying out a revegetation programme in the area since that time. They report that by October 1991 around 1130 plants, propagated from local seed, had been planted on the site.

Most were protected with old tyres and weeded at least once.

The drier, exposed spurs have been planted with the South Island kowhai, *Sophora microphylla*. Ngaio, lemonwood and kohuhu have been planted in exposed, open areas with flax, cabbage tree, mahoe and tree fuchsia in the more fertile gullies.

Last year Hall's totara, mapou, marble leaf and the narrow leaf lacebark, *Hoheria angustifolia* were introduced. Also the jewelled gecko's habitat, a small area of *Coprosma propinqua* on a north facing



Style Creek covenant.

slope, has been extended.

STOP plan to continue the planting for several years, focusing on the species which were originally present as well as

extending the jewelled gecko's habitat.

The National Trust made a small donation towards a stile and track edging.

Involvement Volunteers

Involvement Volunteers Inc (IVI) is a private, not for profit organisation based in Port Melbourne, Australia. It currently assists landholders in California, Fiji, Hawaii, and Thailand, as well as Australia.

IVI enables volunteers to participate in activities which benefit the natural environment while learning from their experiences in other parts of the world.

The organisation wishes to extend their operations to New Zealand so that volunteers can become familiar with our cultural and environmental situation. They are interested in either individual placements for one to three people for two or more weeks, or team tasks for up to 12

volunteers for one to two weeks. The landholder is asked to meet the volunteers at a place serviced by public transport, and to provide accommodation and food (the individual usually lives in with the family). The volunteer pays all travel costs to the meeting place and contributes to the costs of running IVI.

There is a range of activities which are already recognised to help landholders now working to develop or maintain an ecologically sustainable environment on their properties. These include collecting indigenous seeds, propagating seedlings, constructing protective fencing, planting seedlings, and pest and weed control. Sometimes volunteers assist generally in

farm operations to allow the landholder to have more time to spare for seasonally affected environmental work to be done at another time of the year. Sometimes groups of farmers have taken on individual volunteers and liaised so that volunteers go to more than one property as part of their visit to an area.

If IVI is welcomed in New Zealand, they

propose to offer the opportunity for New Zealand volunteers to participate in programmes in other countries where they operate.

Interested landholders can contact Involvement Volunteers Inc at PO Box 218, Port Melbourne, Victoria 3207, Australia or by telephone/fax 613 646 5504.

The Kiwi Outback

On his property high above Lake Rotorua in the Kaharoa district, Winston Fleming, a National Trust covenantor, has broadened his range of commercial activities. This has been made possible by, and has centred around, his protected area of bush.

As well as being a sheep, deer and cattle farmer Winston has recently moved into tourism. He did this for two reasons; his farm is only marginally profitable under livestock farming and he feels that he has an environment which is too good to be shut away from the general public.

Winston's covenant is a 34 hectare area of native tawa, pukatea and podocarp forest at the back of his farm which adjoins the larger Kaharoa Reserve. This Department of Conservation reserve is renowned for its populations of kokako as well as other bush birds such as pigeon, shining cuckoo, long-tailed cuckoo, morepork, kingfisher, fantail, tomtit, robin, whitehead, grey warbler, tui, bellbird, and silvereye. New Zealand falcon has also been recorded here.

Not only is this a rich environment but its altitude and remoteness ensure that it provides people with pure air in an almost pristine setting without man-made noises, except for the sound of the billy boiling or the sausages sizzling on the out-door fireplace, breaking the peace.

Winston's recent move into tourism is based on the assumption that the pure and unexploited outdoor environment is a saleable commodity. People, he suggests, now crave the outdoors. By sensitively cutting walkways through his covenanted



An old logging track in the Fleming bush.

bush to take in forest vistas, rivers, streams and a variety of flora and fauna types, he has enabled people to see the real New Zealand or as he terms it, "The Kiwi Outback".

Winston has attracted about 120 people to his bush over the last six months. This was done by producing a small brochure called "The Kiwi Outback", describing the bush and its unique environment, and by running a small advertising campaign through the Rotorua Tourist Bureau. Half these visitors have viewed the rare kokako, as well as most of the other bush birds in the area.

Tourists are accommodated in two huts (four bunks in each) on the edge of the covenant. Their location provides pleasant views over the bush and out to the Bay of Plenty coast. They are well sited for people just wanting to experience a natural environment but for those who want to see or hear kokako the huts are sited right in the territory of one pair of

these birds. One year Winston found a kokako nest within 50 metres of the huts.

In this remote place visitors can literally wake up to the organ flute notes of the kokako and view it without the need of man-made, tape-recorded, song lures.

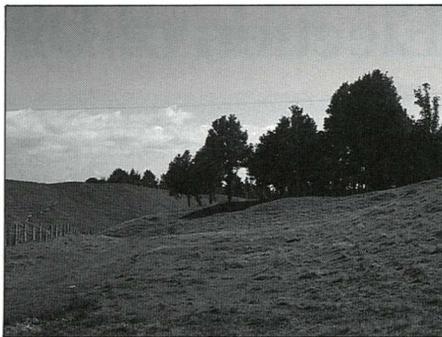
Intending tourists simply contact Winston for a booking. After they have found their way to the property he then takes them out to the bush reserve in his four-wheel drive vehicle. The drive takes about twenty minutes over rough farm and bush tracks and through a variety of scenery. Winston acts as both guide and cook, usually serving hogget or venison steaks grown on the farm. His meals are the real New Zealand outback type of food - steak and eggs with billy tea and no frills.

Comments in the visitors' book indicate that eating outside with the moreporks calling, and going to sleep in the total darkness and silence of the outback, is an experience which most have never had before.

Winston Fleming, through his imagination and perseverance, has built up a small and viable sideline on a very limited budget and has given people an experience they never knew existed. This is only possible because he and his forebears realised that bush had values other than potential pastureland.

This venture leads the way in nature-tourism on National Trust covenants. It illustrates a very good and profitable use for protected forestland. It is an example of initiative which could be followed by many other landowners who have interesting forests or other open space features on their properties. And it illustrates well why farmers should consider all options before they embark on a land-clearing operation aimed at increasing livestock numbers only.

Stuart Chambers
Waikato - Regional Representative



Typical farm landscape on Winston Fleming's property.

Land Owners

Stuart Chambers would like to hear from covenantors or forest landowners, who feel their protected areas have similar attributes to that of Winston Fleming. This could include bird-watching, trout fishing, deer hunting, rock climbing, swimming, seclusion and isolation, mineral springs, caving systems and boating.

He is compiling a list of these landowners with the object of eventually encouraging and supporting the use of their areas for tourism. This linking of tourist-use with forests or other open space areas, whether protected or not, secures the preservation of these areas while it enhances their value and the work of the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust. It also allows forested open space to be seen not simply as timber or potential grassland but as tourist dollars.

With the provision of simple but comfortable cottages in these areas, a situation could evolve whereby landowners are provided with extra funds, at little extra cost. Extra stimulation through the world coming to their doors could also be an enjoyable benefit.

Interested parties should write to -
Stuart Chambers
649 River Road
Hamilton

Election of Directors

The triennial elections for the two Directors elected by members of the Trust will be held in March 1992. By the time you read this, the procedure for the elections will have concluded.

The electoral roll closed on 31 December 1991, with nominations closing on 17 January 1992. Ballot papers will have been posted to each member (at their address on the electoral roll) by 14 February 1992. Results will be known by March 20 and members will be notified of the results in the next Newsletter.

STOP PRESS

The membership of the Trust has

re-elected Arthur Cowan of Otorohanga and Dr Brian Molloy of Christchurch to represent them through to 31 March 1995.

Rules of the Trust

In preparation for the 1992 elections, the Trust rules have been revised and abbreviated. The major purpose of the Rules is to determine procedures for membership and for the triennial elections. Over the seven years since their last publication some parts of the Rules have become redundant or are adequately covered by other statutes or procedures.

New Zealand Native Plants Course

Would you like to know more about New Zealand native plants and how to use them?

The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand is launching a long distance learning programme on native plants in mid 1992.

The course is aimed at increasing people's awareness of the importance of New Zealand's native plants. Students can learn to carry out revegetation and tree planting schemes, as promoted under the Department of Conservation's Tu Kakariki programme. Other features of the course include the protection and management of native vegetation remnants such as National Trust covenants, as well as managing native vegetation on a sustainable basis to supply plant based products.

Input to the course has been obtained from groups including the Trust, Department of Conservation, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, local government Parks and Reserves staff,

New Zealand Farm Forestry Association and Maori groups involved with ethnobotanical plantings.

The student receives a course package containing the following items:

- A resource kit module with contact addresses, sources of information, maps of ecological regions and districts record sheets etc, local information is added by the students.
- A field notebook for recording observations.
- Seven learning modules about native plants, which include charts, diagrams, and photos of native plants as well as other relevant information.
- Brochures from other interested groups.

For further information write to:

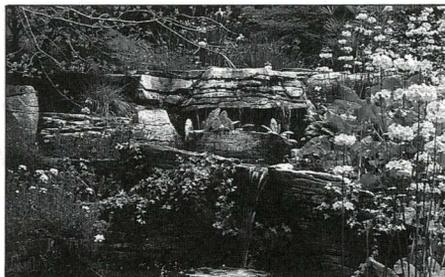
Bruce Treeby
TOPNZ
Private Bag
LOWER HUTT

Rhododendron Festival

To say that the Taranaki BNZ Rhododendron Festival was a success is an understatement. 1991 saw 125 gardens open to the public with visitors from all over New Zealand and overseas. Internationally they came from as far away as Greenland.

However, the success of this annual festival cannot be measured simply by numbers through the gate. Not only is the reputation of New Zealand's premier garden event well established on the calendar, but its wider scope must also be acknowledged. Chairman of Tourism Taranaki, David Walter has estimated its total value to the province to be in the millions of dollars.

Tupare, always a major festival drawcard, hosted a variety of specific tour groups including horticulturalists, garden and park curators along with journalists from influential American magazines such as 'Home and Garden' and 'Gourmet'. Also TV3's Dale Harvey filmed at the garden for a day.



Waterfall at Tupare.

The biggest thrill this year has been for Tourism Taranaki to win the American Express New Zealand Award 1991 for the Rhododendron Festival. The National Trust is playing a wider role than simply protecting the landscape and its reputation keeps growing. Trust members, board and staff can be justifiably proud of our gardens.

*Alistair Duncan
Tupare Curator*

Staff Changes

Francie Pedersen

Francie Pedersen joined the Trust in August as Assistant Covenants Officer. She grew up in Pahiatua and was educated at Tararua College. Before coming to the Trust she worked as a legal clerk for the Ministry of Works and the Department of Lands, administering Crown land under the Public Works Act.

Francie plays senior women's cricket, senior reserve hockey and volleyball. Her other interests include floral art, gardening and music. She has also

travelled widely in the United States and Canada.

Alison Druce

Alison Druce started working for the Trust in September as part time librarian, while Polly Buckland is away. She is also employed in the Music and Fine Arts Department of the Wellington Public Library.

Alison and her husband have a son, Erua aged seven. Her interests include tennis, gardening, Maori language and knitting.

Killing Off Old Man's Beard

Old Man's Beard is a major problem in many bush covenants. Recent research is providing new hope for an effective way of controlling this destructive plant.

The following article is reprinted with kind permission from *Terra Nova - The Resource Management Magazine of New Zealand*. It was written by DSIR journalist, Lindsay Clark, and appeared in the October 1991 edition.

Inside Adrian Spier's laboratory at Aokautere, near Palmerston North, are some unseasonal leaves of Old Man's Beard which are black with fungus and dying.

"They look really crook," Dr Spiers says happily. The leaves are the first from New Zealand-grown *Clematis vitalba* or Old Man's Beard to be deliberately exposed to a fungus that severely checks the growth of the plant in its native Europe. The dying leaves offer hope that the aggressive climber, which can smother and kill native forest, may in future be brought under some kind of biological control.

Old Man's Beard was introduced to New Zealand as a garden climber - minus its European diseases - from the early 1900s. By the 1940s it had escaped onto roadsides, water courses and forest remnants. Since then the vines have spread from north of Auckland to Stewart Island. The most serious infestations are along major rivers from the Waikato to the Clutha, in and around urban areas, and increasingly in native forest reserves and scrub country.

The public odium that Old Man's Beard has attracted, compared with the hundreds of other foreign plants that have also become naturalised New Zealand citizens, is due to its ability to climb, smother and kill trees up to 30 metres high. It will grow over shelterbelts, ornamentals, willows planted for river protection, and forest margins where light is abundant.

Old Man's Beard generates prolific foliage that smothers trees crowns and cuts out light so they cannot photosynthesise. The sheer weight of foliage and stems even snaps off branches of the host plant. Old Man's Beard is multi-stemmed and fast-growing: the production of new growth in one season has been estimated by botanist Carol West to be five times greater than the average New Zealand forest productivity. In a study she made of a small patch of *Clematis vitalba* in the Rai Valley near Nelson, the estimated productivity of foliage and stems was 6.3 kg per square metre. Productivity in New Zealand native forest is typically about 1.2 kg per square metre. Even in the tropics, average forest green vegetation production is about 4 kg per square metre.

The Department of Conservation and local authorities have tried cutting back or removing plants and spraying with herbicides. Both labour and chemicals are expensive, however, and the use of herbicides in the environment is becoming less acceptable.

So the plant has become an attractive candidate for biological control by insects, plant pathogens or both. Dr Spiers, a DSIR Plant Protection scientist at Aokautere, believed fungal diseases were a way of controlling it, so late last year he made a trans-Europe expedition looking the distribution of *Clematis vitalba* and collecting fungus-infected leaves from southern England to Yugoslavia.

Some of the fungi he found caused leaves to fall off, so weakening the plant. The most promising came from the wetter areas of Switzerland, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Austria. Dr Spiers believes the moist conditions in much of New Zealand should favour these fungi.

He was surprised how much of a problem *Clematis vitalba* is in its own habitat. "In Europe Old Man's Beard is what you call a background weed. It's everywhere and the people who live there

simply don't notice it. When local biological control scientists drove around with me and saw how extensive it is and what it is doing to the local vegetation, they were quite surprised. Some were quite concerned". The plant is a particularly bad problem in the Rhine Valley, even strangling some of the grape vines the area is famous for.

Fungal diseases are usually thought of as being 'baddies' for attacking 'good' crops, and can spread with great speed and damage. Fungal diseases, thought to have been borne by air from Australia, are now killing the common cultivar of the silver poplar throughout New Zealand and lupins used to stabilise sand country for forestry.

Dr Spiers says, however, that biological control is definitely the best and cheapest way of getting rid of the problem. "Once an effective fungus is found and released, it is out there working and doesn't cost any more money. It will continue to attack the plant and weaken it. As young seedlings emerge it will also attack them." Insects are unlikely to be effective in

biological control: in Europe he found very few insects living on Old Man's Beard. It is also unpalatable to animals.

Spiers is confident that an effective fungus will be found. At present he is culturing fungi from small fragments of the *Clematis vitalba* leaves he collected. The different types of fungus are then grown separately. Only those which cause disease are kept, and stored at low temperature for later use. Three or four look promising.

He has begun testing the newly isolated fungi on naturalised Old Man's Beard to find the disease which is most effective at killing or knocking back the plant. The ideal would be to find fungi active only against *Clematis vitalba*. Diseases will also be tested on native clematis, garden clematis species and other commercial plants to preclude any nasty side-effects. Before release a detailed environmental impact assessment will be needed. All procedures are carried out in strict quarantine, and the research is being funded largely by the Department of Conservation.

Staff at Hollard Gardens

Greg Rine

Greg Rine started working at Hollard Gardens in July 1989 and was recently appointed curator. He gained a Diploma in Amenity Horticulture at Massey University and worked in a variety of jobs including Campus Manager for MAF at Flock House.

Greg and his wife, Sue, have a baby daughter, Elizabeth.

Kane Innes

Kane Innes started a four-year apprenticeship in amenity horticulture at Hollard Gardens in July 1991 after completing a Horticultural Course at New Plymouth. This is the first time the National Trust has taken on an apprentice at either of the gardens.

Kane lives on his parents' dairy farm nearby and his other interests include cars and reading.

Queen Elizabeth II National Trust Board March 1992

Appointed by the Minister of Conservation in terms of the QEII National Trust Act (1977)

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Hamish Ensor of Methven.

Maui Pomare JP of Wellington

Margaret Bayfield of Inglewood

Elected by National Trust Members:
Arthur Cowan MBE of Otorohanga.

Dr Brian Molloy of Christchurch

Trust Manager:

Tim Porteous

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